

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Description of amendments

Claims 3 and 4 are now pending and under examination. Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 2.

Allowed and allowable claims

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 3 and 4.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

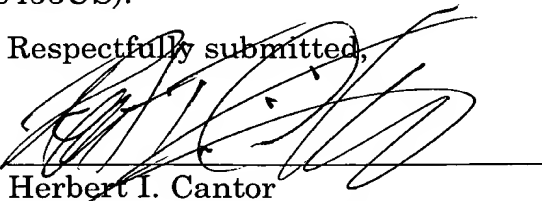
Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kai (U.S. Patent 6,164,833) in view of Takemura (U.S. Patent 6,152,605). This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1 and 2.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM #038920.50453US).

January 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Herbert I. Cantor

Registration No. 24,392

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
HIC:SZ:tlm (038920.50453US; 356610)